

CIRCUIT COURTS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Source of Funds	FY03 Adjusted Base	FY04 Recommended	% Change Over FY03	FY05 Recommended	% Change Over FY04
GPR	74,083,900	78,816,500	6.4	79,024,800	0.3
TOTAL	74,083,900	78,816,500	6.4	79,024,800	0.3

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION SUMMARY

Source of Funds	FY03 Adjusted Base	FY04 Recommended	FTE Change From FY03	FY05 Recommended	FTE Change From FY04
GPR	511.00	511.00	0.00	511.00	0.00
TOTAL	511.00	511.00	0.00	511.00	0.00

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Circuit Court is Wisconsin's court of general jurisdiction and consists of 241 judicial positions in 69 judicial circuits. Each county in the state is a circuit, with the exception of Pepin and Buffalo, Menominee and Shawano, and Forest and Florence, which are paired to form three circuits. Where the volume of litigation warrants, a circuit consists of more than one branch (judge). Of the 69 circuits, 39 contain multiple branches.

The Circuit Court has original jurisdiction in all criminal, civil, juvenile, family and probate cases unless exclusive jurisdiction has been given to another court. The court has appellate jurisdiction over orders and judgments of the municipal courts and the responsibility to review decisions and orders of state administrative agencies.

For purposes of management, the Circuit Courts are divided into ten administrative districts. Each district has a chief judge appointed by the Supreme Court and a district court administrator who administer the business of the judicial branch in that district in cooperation with the director of state courts at the direction of the chief justice. The first judicial district (Milwaukee County) also has an assistant district court administrator.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Budget Efficiency Measures
2. Court Support Fee Increase
3. Court Interpreters: County Reimbursement
4. Standard Budget Adjustments

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

5. Law Clerk Reimbursement Pilot

Table 1
Department Budget Summary by Funding Source (in thousands of dollars)

	ACTUAL FY02	ADJUSTED BASE FY03	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$75,870.7	\$74,083.9	\$78,816.5	\$79,420.8	\$78,816.5	\$79,024.8
State Operations	52,153.8	50,010.8	54,386.4	54,386.4	54,386.4	54,386.4
Local Assistance	23,716.9	24,073.1	24,430.1	25,034.4	24,430.1	24,638.4
TOTALS-ANNUAL	75,870.7	74,083.9	78,816.5	79,420.8	78,816.5	79,024.8
State Operations	52,153.8	50,010.8	54,386.4	54,386.4	54,386.4	54,386.4
Local Assistance	23,716.9	24,073.1	24,430.1	25,034.4	24,430.1	24,638.4

Table 2
Department Position Summary by Funding Source (in FTE positions) (4)

	ADJUSTED BASE FY03	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05
GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00
TOTALS-ANNUAL	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

Table 3
Department Budget Summary by Program (in thousands of dollars)

	ACTUAL FY02	ADJUSTED BASE FY03	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
			FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05
1. Court operations	\$75,870.7	\$74,083.9	\$78,816.5	\$79,420.8	\$78,816.5	\$79,024.8
TOTALS	75,870.7	74,083.9	78,816.5	79,420.8	78,816.5	79,024.8

Table 4
Department Position Summary by Program (in FTE positions) (4)

	ADJUSTED BASE FY03	AGENCY REQUEST		GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION	
		FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05
1. Court operations	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00
TOTALS	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00	511.00

(4) All positions are State Operations unless otherwise specified

1. Budget Efficiency Measures

The Governor recommends reducing expenditure authority in the court's state operations appropriations through a \$250,000 GPR lapse to create additional operational efficiencies and balance the budget.

2. Court Support Fee Increase

The Governor recommends increasing the courts' small claims filing, large claims filing, forfeiture judgment and civil court filing fees by 30 percent to fund increased operating costs. The fee increase will increase revenue by \$9,287,600 GPR-E in FY04 and \$11,205,600 GPR-E in FY05.

3. Court Interpreters: County Reimbursement

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY04		FY05		FY04		FY05	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	357,000	0.00	565,300	0.00	357,000	0.00	565,300	0.00
TOTAL	357,000	0.00	565,300	0.00	357,000	0.00	565,300	0.00

The Governor recommends providing additional funding for court interpreter reimbursement costs incurred by the counties for interpreter services needed in criminal, juvenile, mental health and civil cases, regardless of indigency.

4. Standard Budget Adjustments

Source of Funds	Agency Request				Governor's Recommendation			
	FY04		FY05		FY04		FY05	
	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
GPR	4,375,600	0.00	4,375,600	0.00	4,375,600	0.00	4,375,600	0.00
TOTAL	4,375,600	0.00	4,375,600	0.00	4,375,600	0.00	4,375,600	0.00

The Governor recommends adjusting the agency's base budget for: (a) full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$4,324,800 in each year); and (b) fifth week of vacation as cash (\$50,800 in each year).

ITEMS NOT APPROVED

The following requests are not included in the Governor's budget recommendations for the Circuit Courts.

Decision Item	Source of Funds	FY04		FY05	
		Dollars	Positions	Dollars	Positions
5. Law Clerk Reimbursement Pilot	GPR	0	0.00	396,000	0.00
TOTAL OF ITEMS NOT APPROVED	GPR	0	0.00	396,000	0.00